



LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

City of Lancaster
Bureau of Police, 39 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Pa. 17603
www.lancasterpolice.com

Author: Chief Keith Sadler

Contact Number: (717) 735-3300

Date: December 7, 2010

Homicide Arson Investigation Update

At 5:36 a.m. Dec. 6, 2010 County dispatchers informed Lancaster Fire and Police Departments of a building fire at 14 N. Plum St., a single family dwelling. Upon arrival, fire responders found a working fire, and several residents of the home who had jumped or fallen from windows or were assisted from the roof by neighbors. An adult male and three children were transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Fire personnel located a deceased adult in the residence. Lancaster Detectives are investigating the death and fire. The Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshall and Lancaster County District Attorney's Office have been notified and are assisting Lancaster Police.

At time of release, the cause of the adult's death has not been determined and the adult has not been identified. The cause of the fire has also not been determined. Detectives seek to speak with anyone who may have information regarding the fire this morning.

Further information will be released when it is available.

Update to Release: released at 1740 Hrs., 06 Dec 2010

The Lancaster Police are still intensively investigating the fire scene at 14 N. Plum St. with the assistance of the PA State Police Fire Marshall, and Lancaster County Detectives. Lancaster Police have all detectives working on this crime, and are investigating the death as a homicide and the fire as arson.

Lancaster Police emphasize that there has not been an autopsy, and expect that medical exam to occur tomorrow. Investigators are still processing the fire scene at time of the release.

There were five persons in the residence at the time of the fire. An adult male and three children escaped the fire. The adult and a 13 year old boy were treated for injuries at a local hospital and released. Two girls, ages 8 and 9, were admitted to out of County Hospitals and are in critical condition.

At this time, investigators feel that there is neither a concern to the general public nor feel that the fire was caused by a random arsonist. Investigators do not feel it is a random crime, and are not commenting further.

Update to Release: Released at 1500 Hrs., 07 Dec 2010

The Lancaster Police are releasing information of who Police believe died in the fire. The Lancaster County Coroner's Office will make final determination in identifying the decedent. Lancaster Police believe the below resident died in the fire:

OLGA SANCHEZ-REYES; 30 years of age
Resident of 14 N. Plum St. Lancaster, PA



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Lancaster Police praise the actions of Sanchez's 13 year old son and a neighbor, Jonathon Santiago as being heroic, life saving actions. Sanchez's son led his younger sisters to an attic window and assisted them outside to an eave of the roof. The youth performed these actions as the fire was spreading into the attic.

Santiago heard yells from the children, attempted to enter the residence and saw that he would be unable to go up the stairs. Santiago then awoke a neighbor and went to their attic and went outside across rooftops to the children. Santiago led the older boy to the neighbor's home and carried one girl inside. Santiago and Sanchez's son are heroes.

The two daughters, ages 8 and 9 remain hospitalized in critical but stable condition.

Detectives continued today to process the fire scene. Evidence has been collected and will be sent to forensic labs.

An autopsy was performed by the Lancaster County Coroners Office today. There has not been a determination of the cause and manner of death, and there also has not been an identification of the deceased person Lancaster Police are determined to move forward with the investigation and will use all resources to solve this crime.

Police are moving forward with the belief that Olga Sanchez-Reyes is the decedent, that her death was the result of a homicide, and that the fire was arson. Investigators emphasize that there is neither a concern to the general public nor feel that the fire was caused by a random arsonist. Investigators do not feel it is a random crime, and are not commenting further.

Sanchez-Reyes family made a request to the police this afternoon toward privacy from the media. They asked that police not publish a photo of Ms. Sanchez-Reyes at this time.

Detectives ask that anyone with information call 717-735-3300 and ask for a detective. Callers can remain anonymous.

END RELEASE pja

(end of release)